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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 185, August 12, 6 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
AUG 18 1954
file

Colonel McCormick, Army Attache has learned that attempt was made August 11 seize military base near Guatemala City airport by 120 enlisted men and noncommissioned officers apparently supporters of Major Sosa who led uprising on August 2-3. Colonel Nieder Heitmann assumed command of base August 6 kept situation under control and immediately discharged all men involved. Reportedly they will be replaced by elements recruited from liberation army forces at Zacapa.

That this mutiny caused but a minor flurry is evidenced by fact that entire junta together with Minister of Defense and chief of staff were at airport on afternoon of August 11 to bid farewell to Colonel Jose Luis Cruz, Ambassador-designate to United States. It is possible, however, that President Castillo had this episode in mind when he referred to impact of Arbenz propaganda on army (EMBTEL 184). So far no publicity has been given to August 11 incident.

KRIEG

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